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| 09/536,273 | 03/27/2000 | Steven B. Smith | 9311.6 | 3734 |

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EXAMINER

CHILCOT, RICHARD E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

DATE MAILED: 02/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/536,273

Applicant(s)

SMITH, STEVEN B.

Examiner

Richard E. Chilcot, Jr.

Art Unit

3627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 7-18 and 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 7-18 and 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-18 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fano in view of Pare, Jr. et al and Tracy et al. and the Stores publication by Gary Robins, entitled, "*Portable POS*", herein after Portable POS.

Fano teaches a PDA which is used in performing a wireless point-of-sale purchase transaction; the PDA comprises a microprocessor, a short range communication device which receives sales information from a wireless vendor device, a long range communication device which transmits purchasing information to a vendor including payment means (col. 47, line 58 through col. 52, line 15). While Fano teaches all the elements of the claimed invention, Fano fails to teach using the long-range communication for preauthorization of a purchase.

On the other hand, Pare, Jr. et al. teaches a tokenless, biometric transaction system which allows the purchaser to request authorization for a purchase. Pare, Jr. also teaches the authorization is transmitted to the vendor for the purchase of an item. It should also be noted Pare, Jr. et al. teaches a biometric input device.

Accordingly, to use the long range communication means of Fano to obtain a preauthorization for the purchase of an item, as suggested by Pare, Jr. et al., would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. The advantage of such a modification to Fano would have been to provide greater security against fraud for the purchaser.

Fano fails to teach a vendor point of sale that includes a short-range communication device; however, Tracy et al. in col. 6, lines 26-51 teaches such a feature. Accordingly, to provide Fano with a vendor point of sale device as suggested by Tracy et al., would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. The motivation for such a change would have been to promote sales for a vendor.

It is noted that all the references are silent regarding the preauthorization from a financial institution before the purchase of an item. However, the Portable POS publication teaches the value of the portable device is not limited to the space inside the four walls. Mervyn's has used the portable out of doors to open charge accounts before the store opens, while people are waiting outside the store before the "SUPER" events.

The customer answers some questions, a major credit card is swiped through the mag stripe reader, and the system goes out to the credit bureau for the approval process. The system prints out a temporary credit card slip with a temporary I.D. number and the person's name. The customer also gets a discount coupon.

Accordingly, to add the step of preauthorization to the system of Fano, as taught by Portable POS, would have been obvious for the skilled artisan. The motivation for this change would have increase the sales for a business as well as adding convenience for the customer.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-18 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Treyz et al. in view of Pare, Jr. et al. Treyz et al. teach all the features of the claimed invention with the exception of a tokenless, biometric transaction system which allows the purchaser to request authorization for a purchase. As note above Pare, Jr. et al. teach such a feature. Accordingly, Accordingly, to use the long range communication means of Treyz et al. to obtain a preauthorization for the purchase of an item, as suggested by Pare, Jr. et al., would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. The advantage of such a modification to Treyz et al. would have been to provide greater security against fraud for the purchaser.

It is noted that Treyz et al. is silent regarding the preauthorization from a financial institution before the purchase of an item. However, the Portable POS publication teaches the value of the portable device is not limited to the space inside the four walls. Mervyn's has used the portable out of doors to open charge accounts

before the store opens, while people are waiting outside the store before the "SUPER" events.

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Accordingly, to add the step of preauthorization to the system of Treyz et al., as taught by Portable POS, would have been obvious for the skilled artisan. The motivation for this change would have increase the sales for a business as well as adding convenience for the customer

Response to Arguments

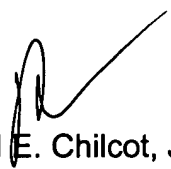
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5, 7-18 and 21-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard E. Chilcot, Jr. whose telephone number is 703-305-4716. The examiner can normally be reached on 5/4/9 1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (703) 308-5183. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Richard E. Chilcot, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3627